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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 03143 200552Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 INR-07 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SP-02
ISO-00 /040 W
----------201021Z 097115 /12-S
R 191434Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4060
INFO: RUFHTA/AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO 423
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL DJIBOUTI
CINCPAC
CINCUSNAVEUR

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 3143

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, MA, MARR, US, XO
SUBJ: SPECIAL USG EMISSARY ON INDIAN OCEAN

REF: ANTANANARIVO 0916

1. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED AT THIS TIME BY VISIT HERE OF SPECIAL EMISSARY ON INDIAN OCEAN AND RELATED MATTERS. WE DOUBT THAT AN HIGH LEVEL EPMG OFFICIALS WOULD EVEN AGREE TO MEET WITH EMISSARY.

2. ETHIOPIA, OF COURSE, NOT INDIAN OCEAN COUNTRY, AND SUBJECT IS THEREFORE OF ONLY PERIPHERAL INTEREST HERE, ALTHOUGH
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EPMG MAKES PROPER NOISES IN SUPPORT OF ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL. EPMG THEREFORE MORE LIKELY INTERPRET EMISSARY VISIT TO COUNTRIES IN REGION AS ANTI-SOVIET MOVE WITH INTENT REDUCING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN EAST AFRICA. SOVIETS HAVE STRONGLY BACKED UPMG IN ITS PRESENT DIFFICULTIES, AND BOTH RECENTLY MADE JOINT STATEMENT OPPOSING RED SEA SECURITY SCHEME, CURRENTLY

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BEING PUSHED BY ETHIOPIA'S ARAB NEIGHBORS. EPMG
MAY ALSO SEE HIDDEN ATTEMPT BY USG TO DISLODGE
SOVIETS FROM BERBERA.

3. SIMILARLY, EPMG WOULD PROBABLY VIEW VISIT OF EMISSARY
TO OTHER RED SEA LITTORAL STATES WITH CONSIDERABLE
SUSPICION. FOR ETHIOPIANS, "RED SEA SECURITY" IS
EUPHEMISM FOR REACTIONARY ARAB CONSPIRACY TO DENY
SOCIALIST EPMG ACCESS TO RED SEA, BUT SUPPORTING
ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE AND CREATING PRO-ARAB, ANTI-
ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT IN DJIBOUTI. IF U.S. INTEREST,
AS SUGGESTED PARA. 13, ABIDJAN 4911, IS TO STAY CLEAR
OF REGIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN RED SEA AREA,
THIS WOULD BE EXCELLENT TIME TO DEMONSTRATE OUR LACK
OF INTEREST WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO EMBASSY ANTANANARIVO'S
MAIN CONCERN WITH INDIAN OCEAN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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